

ROSWELL DAILY RECORD

DEMOCRATIC IN POLITICS.

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MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IN ONTARIO TOWN KILLS TAXES.
Here is a municipal ownership story that you should read and ponder. It is taken from the Des Moines, Iowa, Daily News of January 30, being a letter from Fort William, Ontario by a special correspondent of the paper who was sent to Ft. William to study conditions.

(By Harry G. Farmer.)

Is municipal ownership practical? Will it pay in dollars and cents?

Will it not result in the upbuilding of a political machine where the reckless payment of party debts will spell quick ruin for the system?

Can a municipality obtain from the ranks of politics the competent sort of men necessary to manage successfully the various public utilities which, under municipal ownership, must be forced one and all under city control?

These are the questions universally asked in the United States when the question of municipal ownership is raised. They are questions the twin cities on Thunder bay, Port Arthur and Ft. William are answering.

Away up here on the border of the great northern wilderness these two cities, destined to become the gateways of greater Canada, are threatening out the problem. In their own minds the people here have settled the question.

"The time is coming," a serious-faced business man said to me, "when we will no longer have to go to the treasurer's office to pay taxes. Instead once a year we will call to receive our dividends from the municipality."

Both cities generate their electricity by water power. Ft. William has a plant capable of 40,000 horse power at Kakabe falls, a cataract with a drop of 167 feet, twenty miles from the city. Sufficient power could be generated to supply a city as large as Chicago. Port Arthur has a modern power house at an 80-foot fall in the Current river just outside of the city limits. During the last three years, under municipal ownership, the growth of the two cities has been phenomenal. Both have jumped in population from 6,000 to 15,000.

Ft. William owns the electric light and telephone systems, the water works, a municipal theatre and a municipal dance hall. Port Arthur owns the street railway systems of both towns, electric light and telephone systems, water works and 1,500 acres of valuable lake front land, held in reserve for the future encouragement of industrial development.

There is but one franchise not owned by the cities, that of the Bell Telephone Company, which now has only one telephone out of every eight in both cities. A proposed ordinance to compel all wires to be placed under ground probably will force the company out of the field permanently.

The municipal street cars are operated by policemen. The road is a success. It is nine miles long and in 1907 it cleared \$32,000. The net profit in four years under municipal ownership is \$90,898.33, or one-fifth of the entire cost of the road.

Were this profit to be distributed in dividends it would mean \$3 each for every man, woman and child in both cities, or about \$30 each for the taxpayers of Port Arthur if given to the taxpayers alone. This franchise is valued at \$1,000,000.

Telephone tolls in Canada are quite high, ranging from \$50 to \$100 a year for business houses, and from \$30 to \$50 for residences. Under municipal ownership residents of these two cities pay \$12 a year for residence and \$24 a year for commercial service. In four years the two systems have earned about \$9,000 net.

The Ft. William municipal theatre and dance hall are both in the city hall. The latter interested me particularly. "We thought it would be better," my merchant guide explained, "to have a good moral place for our sons and daughters than to have them running around to indiscriminate dances."

The theatre strikingly illustrates the possibilities of municipal ownership. It is rented at a figure which pays the city six per cent upon the investment. The management is enabled thereby to make better terms with visiting show companies than most managers in the northwest. The people get better and cheaper shows. Every performance is censored, and decency is not sacrificed to business exigencies.

Just now Ft. William is expending \$250,000 in developing a new gravity system of water supply which in less than a year will furnish water from Loch Lomond, on McKay mountain, and give the city one of the cheapest and best water systems in America.

A municipal swimming pool is in contemplation. Both cities will contribute to its cost. The Lake Superior water is always too cold for bathing purposes, but a river pours down into the bay between the cities. An artificial lake is to be built for the youngsters near its mouth.

Now for the dollars and cents. From the net earnings of its public utilities in the last four years Port Arthur has had approximately one hundred thousand dollars. This has produced a substantial reduction in the tax rate.

Better than all this, though, municipal ownership has killed partisan municipal politics, and doing so has wiped out municipal dishonesty and graft. Party lines have been obliterated. Any taxpayer may run for office. All that is required in the way of nomination is that he appear on a certain date to announce his candidacy "supported" by one other voter. Municipal ownership has brought dignity and honor to office holding. It has made the public office a public trust in truth. Election is a demonstration of the public confidence in one's honor and integrity.

No salaries are paid mayors or aldermen. The honor of election is considered sufficient emolument. Aldermen are elected at large; there is no ward politics, no district domination. Last election there were more than thirty candidates for alderman on each city ticket, with eight to elect.

Dishonesty in legislation and administration has disappeared. Early in the history of municipal ownership there were some instances of both. The results were such that no one has dared offend since. To serve wrongly means to erect a monument that will stand in the public mind for a generation.

Much of the spirit of moral uplift in municipal politics is due to the newspapers of both cities, also municipally owned. They are ardent exponents of integrity and honest ambition to the rising generation.

HENRY WATTERSON ON "THE PURCHASED PRESS."
From Louisville Courier-Journal.

The President professes to believe deep down in the bottom of his heart that a great many of the newspapers of the United States are "corrupted" by Standard Oil. Well, the President professed just as solemnly, a little while ago, to believe in the corporeal existence of a body of political conspirators with a \$5,000,000 corruption fund. The President, when the exigencies of circumstances seem to demand it, can get himself to believe a very great many things vastly more improbable than that the whale actually swallowed Jonah, or that Jonah actually swallowed the whale. A fine, elastic imagination has our President. A coruscating eye, and,

as the late Bill Nye said, "another very closely resembling it," to enable him to see a great many interesting things that are just as horrifying to a patriot as they would be if they really existed.

"It is very easy," says Mr. Van Bibber, "to call a man a fool, and it is very hard for a man who is called a fool not to get angry and throw the other man out of the window."

It is by no means a reflection upon Mr. Roosevelt to say that he owes a great deal of his popularity to the press. He has been ever eager for praise from the Democratic and the Republican newspapers. And they have given it to him without measure. Party lines have not been drawn in commending the President, and they have not been drawn in criticizing him. Recently there has been more of a note of criticism than of commendation in the comments of the newspapers of both parties. With his customary intolerance of the opinions of the other fellow Mr. Roosevelt has shown ill temper, but with less than his customary political sagacity, he has shown a spirit of unfairness that must make many of the Republican newspapers feel toward him very much as Mr. Van Bibber did toward Mr. Carruthers.

Nothing is so easy as to raise the cry of "bought" when a newspaper does not agree with one's political views or exhibit a sympathetic interest in one's tantrums. Mr. Davis, of Arkansas, who says himself that Mr. Roosevelt's recent special message eclipsed his brightest dream of the oratory of annihilation, beat Mr. Roosevelt to the housestays by a couple of leaps with the statement that almost all of the newspapers are bought by the trusts. No one was surprised when Mr. Davis shouted "unclean" at all of the newspapers that indulged in hilarity in the headlines above reports of his maiden speech. It was to be expected that a cheap and shallow demagogue would say, and conceivable that he might believe, that the corrupted alone could differ from him. But the President should know better than to imitate Mr. Davis.

If the President is really "seeing things," there is, of course, nothing to recommend but a rest cure. If he is merely trying to make the people believe that widespread corruption of the press exists, it is not worth while for anyone to take him seriously.

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Classified "Ads."

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FOR SALE:—At a bargain, second-hand Oliver typewriter, in good condition. Apply at Record office. tf

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POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR COUNTY ASSESSOR.

The Record is authorized to announce that Fred J. Beck will be a candidate for County Assessor of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries or convention.

The Record is authorized to announce C. W. Davidson as a candidate for the office of Tax Assessor of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries.

I hereby announce my self a candidate for the office of County Assessor of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries.
GUY H. HERBERT.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Assessor of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries or convention.
A. R. FORSYTH.

FOR COUNTY TREASURER.

The Record is authorized to announce James Sutherland as a candidate for County Treasurer of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Record is authorized to announce Charles C. Hill as a candidate for Superintendent of Schools of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election.

FOR COUNTY SHERIFF.

The Record is authorized to announce Charles L. Ballard as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Sheriff of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election.
J. J. RASCOE.

FOR PROBATE CLERK.

The Record is authorized to announce Jas. W. Mullens as a candidate for Probate Clerk of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election.

For Probate Clerk,

F. P. GAYLE.
I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election to the office of Probate Clerk of Chaves County, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary Election.
F. P. GAYLE.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

The Record is authorized to announce that N. J. Fritz, of Hagerman, is a candidate for Commissioner of the Third district, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries.

COMMISSIONER THIRD DISTRICT.

The Record is authorized to announce Jerry Cazler as a candidate for County Commissioner of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election.

COMMISSIONER THIRD DISTRICT.

The Record is authorized to announce M. U. Finley as a candidate for Commissioner of the Third District, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries.

FOR PROBATE JUDGE.

The Record is authorized to announce J. T. Evans as a candidate for Probate Judge of Chaves county, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election.

FOR CITY CLERK.

The Record is authorized to announce W. H. Cosgrove as a candidate for the office of City Clerk of Roswell, subject to the action of the Democratic city convention.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for City Clerk, subject to the action of the Democratic city convention.
WALTER T. PAYLOR.

FOR CITY CLERK.

The Record is authorized to announce W. S. Moore as a candidate for the office of City Clerk of Roswell, subject to the action of the Democratic city convention.

COMMISSIONER SECOND DISTRICT

The Record is authorized to announce that W. M. Atkinson is a candidate for re-election to the office of County Commissioner of the Second district, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries.

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